TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF (Small Entity)

Docket No.
ATTD-1001USDIV

In Re Application Of: **DONALD E. MABE, JR., ET AL.**

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
10/680,535	10/07/2003	MITRA ARYANPOUR	21302	3711	5006

Invention: **BILLIARD EQUIPMENT**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith in triplicate is the Appeal Brief in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on:

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

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Dated: **NOVEMBER 16, 2005**

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NATALIE SORRENTINO
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DOCKET NO.: ATED-1001USDIV **PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Donald E. Mabe Jr., et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3711
	)	Examiner: Mitra Aryanpour
Application Serial No.: 10/680,535	)	
Filed: October 7, 2003	)	
Title: Billiard Equipment	)	

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

APPEAL BRIEF

This is an appeal from the rejection set forth in the Final Rejection dated May 16, 2005, (hereinafter "the Final Rejection") in the above-identified application. Appellant respectfully submits that the rejection in the Final Rejection was made in error, and that this rejection should be reversed for the reasons set forth below.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this paper is being sent via First Class Mail to Mail Stop Appeals Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

On November 16, 2005

By NATALIE SORRENTINO Signature Natalie Sorrentino

I. The Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in the present appeal is Attitude Technology, Inc., 5622 Nevada Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647, to whom an undivided interest in the above-captioned application has been assigned by virtue of an assignment by the inventors to Attitude Technology, Inc. recorded on September 29, 2003, at reel 014535, frame 0018.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

The Appellant is unaware of any pending appeals or interferences related to the present appeal.

III. The Status of the Claims

Claims 15 through 27 are currently pending in the present application and stand rejected in the Final Rejection. The rejection of claims 15 through 27 is hereby appealed. A copy of the currently pending claims 15 through 27 is attached as an appendix hereto.

IV. The Status of any Amendments Filed after Final Rejection

No amendments have been filed after the Final Rejection dated May 16, 2005.

V. Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter

Independent claim 15 relates to a billiard cue 20. The billiard cue 20 has a proximal portion and a distal portion, wherein the distal portion comprises up to half of the length of the billiard cue (page 6, lines 18-20 of the specification). The cue 20 also includes a tip 21 suitable for striking a billiard ball located on a distal end of the distal portion of the cue 20 (page 11, lines 4-8 of the specification and Fig. 3) and a grip 22 located on the proximal portion of the cue 20 (page 12, line 14 of the specification and Fig. 3). The distal portion of the cue 20 comprises substantially more than half of the weight of the cue 20 (page 6, lines 18-22 of the specification).

Claims 16 and 19 require that the diameter of the billiard cue 20 varies up to 10% over the length of the cue 20 (page 6, line 13 of the specification). Claim 17 requires that the diameter of the billiard cue 20 varies up to 5% over the length of the cue 20 (page 6, line 14 of the specification). Claim 18 requires that the diameter of the billiard cue 20 varies up to 2% over the length of the cue 20 (page 6, line 15 of the specification). Claim 20 requires that the distal portion of said billiard cue 20 has a weight which is about 60-80% of the total weight of said billiard cue 20 (page 6, lines 22-23 of the specification). Claim 21 requires that the billiard cue 20 comprise three sections 1, 4, 7 which are releasably attachable to one another (Figure 3 of the specification), and at least one of said three sections 1, 4, 7 located in said distal portion of said cue has a substantially greater density than another of said three sections 1, 4, 7 (page 11, lines 28-32 of the specification). Claims 22 and 23 require that one section form the entire distal portion of the cue 20 (page 11, line 27 of the specification). Claims 24-27 of the application require that the tip 21 comprises a surface for striking a billiard ball, and an elastomeric material attached to said surface, said elastomeric material being sized to fit snugly over the distal end of said billiard cue 20 to releasably secure said tip 21 to the distal end of said billiard cue 20 (page 10, lines 6-9 of the specification).

VI. Ground of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

Appellant believes that the sole ground of rejection to be reviewed on appeal may be concisely summarized as follows:

Claims 15 to 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 298,111 ("Morse") in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,324,789 ("Bey").

VII. Argument - The Rejection of Claims 15-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 15 to 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 298,111 ("Morse") in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,324,789 ("Bey").

With regard to independent claim 15, the Examiner has taken the position that Morse shows all features of claim 15 except for the grip. The Examiner then asserts that it would be obvious to modify the cue of Morse to employ the grip of Bey to enable more accurate shooting and to assist in drawing the cue ball, in order to arrive at the subject matter of independent claim 15 (See page 3, lines 1-2 of the Final Rejection).

A. Independent Claim 15

With regard to independent claim 15, the applicant concedes that Morse shows a billiard cue having a proximal portion, a distal portion and a tip suitable for striking a billiard ball located on a distal end of the distal portion of the cue. The applicant also concedes that Morse shows a billiard cue having a distal portion that which comprises up to half of the length of the cue.

The Examiner admits that Morse does not teach or suggest a grip located on the proximal portion of the billiard cue and thus relies on Bey for the teaching and motivation to provide a grip on the proximal portion of the Morse cue.

However, it is the applicant's position that Morse does not teach or suggest that the distal portion of the billiard cue comprises substantially more than half of the weight of the cue, as required by independent claim 15.

The Examiner first takes the position that,

> "Regarding claim 15, Morse shows a billiard cue having a proximal portion (the butt end – section A) and a distal portion (the tip end –sections C, D and E or alternatively sections B, C, D and E or any combination thereof),..." See page 2, paragraph 2, lines 3-5 of the Final Rejection.

The applicant is willing to concede that section A of the cue of Morse forms part of the proximal portion of the cue, as proximal portion is defined in claim 15 of the present application. The applicant is also willing to concede that sections C, D and E of the cue of Morse may form part of the distal portion of the cue, as distal portion is defined in claim 15 of the present application. However, the Examiner has not demonstrated that section B of the cue of Morse

forms a part of the distal portion of the cue, as distal portion is defined in claim 15 of the present application.

More specifically, nowhere in Morse are the dimensions of the cue or cue sections A-E disclosed. Thus, there is no basis in Morse for the conclusion that section B of the cue of Morse forms a part of the distal portion of the cue. As defined in claim 15, the distal portion of the cue comprises up to half of the length of the cue. Thus, for the entire section B of the cue of Morse to be part of the distal section of the cue, as the examiner alleges, section A of the cue of Morse would have to be at least as long as a combination of sections B, C, D and E of the cue of Morse. The Examiner has not demonstrated that Morse discloses that section A of the cue of Morse is at least as long as a combination of sections B, C, D and E of the cue of Morse and thus, the Examiner's position that section B of the cue of Morse forms part of the distal section of the cue, as defined in claim 15 of the present application, is not supported by evidence.

The Examiner apparently relies on Figure 1 of Morse for the conclusion that section B of the cue of Morse forms part of the distal half of the length of the cue of Morse since the Examiner refers to Figure 1 of Morse on page 2, paragraph 2, line 8, of the Final Rejection. However, the Examiner's reliance on Figure 1 of Morse is misplaced since there is no indication in Morse that Figure 1 is a scale drawing. Moreover, patent drawings are not to be considered scale drawings. For example, in the case of Hockerson-Halberstadt, Inc. v. Avia Group International, Inc., 222 F.3d 951, 956 (Fed. Cir. 2000) the court held,

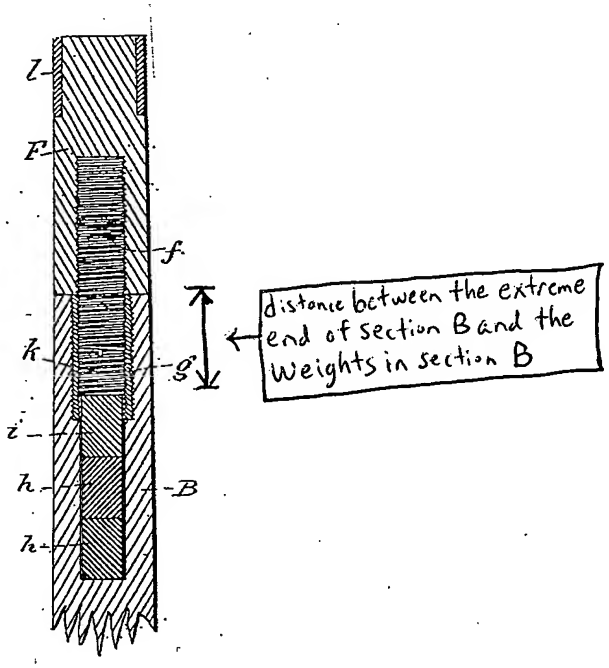
> "Under our precedent, however, it is well established that patent drawings do not define the precise proportions of the elements and may not be relied on to show particular sizes if the specification is completely silent on the issue."

Thus, Figure 1 of Morse cannot be relied on to support the Examiner's position that section B of the cue of Morse is part of the distal portion of the cue of Morse, as distal portion is defined in claim 15 of the present application, since the specification of Morse is completely silent on the issue of the proportions of the elements shown in the drawings.

Even assuming that a portion of section B of the cue of Morse does form part of the distal half or portion of the cue, the Examiner has not demonstrated that a sufficient portion of section B

of the cue of Morse is comprised in the distal half of the cue to include one or more of the weights (h, i) of Morse that are employed in section B of the cue of Morse. In this regard, Figure 6 of Morse, reproduced below, shows that the weights (h, i) are not located at the extreme distal end of section B of the cue of Morse, but rather are located at least some distance from the distal end of section B.

Fig. 6.



Thus, even if the Examiner had shown that a part of section B of the cue of Morse is located in the distal half or portion of the cue, that part of section B of the cue of Morse may not be long enough to include the weights (h, i). Accordingly, the Examiner's reliance on the use of the weights (h, i) in section B of the cue of Morse to provide more than half of the weight of the cue in the distal portion of the cue is unsupported by the evidence since the Examiner has not even demonstrated that the weights (h, i) in section B of the cue of Morse are located in the distal portion of the cue.

In addition, Morse teaches that the cue is usually made of wood. See page 1, col. 1, line 36 of Morse. Thus, the skilled person would conclude that the density of the cue would not vary in the various sections since the same material is used to make each section. As a result, since Morse clearly depicts sections A and B as having a significantly larger diameter than sections C, D and E, the skilled person would conclude that the proximal end of the cue of Morse would have significantly more weight than the distal end for the simple reason that the proximal end of the cue contains more wood than the distal end of the cue of Morse due to the larger diameter of the proximal end of the cue.

Although sections A and B of Morse include weight pockets therein, Morse does not contemplate an embodiment wherein these weight pockets are empty, contrary to the position taken by the Examiner on page 6, lines 8-10 of the Final Rejection, where the Examiner states, "Morse also teaches any combination of weights can be used. Therefore, one may choose not to include weights in the proximal portion (part A)." This is not correct.

More specifically, Morse discloses that,

> "It will be seen that any desired number of the heavy weights h may be used, the remainder of the space being filled with light weights i, and the screw plugs serve to clamp and hold these sections so that they will not shake about when in use..." See page 1, col. 2, lines 84-89 of Morse.

This makes sense since the only means for securing the weights is to fill the entire space of the weight pockets because the weights have no means for being attached to the cue of Morse. If the entire space of the weight pockets were not filled, the weights would be able to move around within the cue of Morse, which Morse has clearly indicated is undesirable.

Moreover, the Examiner's own statement contradicts itself since the Examiner notes that "Morse teaches that any combination of weights may be used." This does not suggest that weights may be omitted, but rather only that different combinations of heavy weights (h) and light weights (i) may be used.

Thus, from the foregoing discussion, it is clear that the Morse cue starts out with more weight in the proximal end than the distal end due to the larger diameter of the proximal end of

the Morse cue relative to the distal end and the fact that the material used to make the various sections of the Morse cue is the same material, i.e. wood. In addition, it is certain that at least the eight weights found in Section A of the Morse cue (see Figs. 3-4 of Morse) form part of the distal portion of the Morse cue. Accordingly, for the Examiner to demonstrate that the Morse cue has substantially more weight in the distal portion than the proximal portion, as required by claim 15 of the present application, the Examiner must demonstrate that:

1. at least some of the three weights found in section B of the Morse cue (see Fig. 6 of Morse) are located in the distal half of the Morse cue, and

2. that sufficient weight can be added to the Morse cue using the weights of section B that are found in the distal half of the Morse cue to overcome the weight difference caused by the larger diameter of the proximal portion of the Morse cue, plus the eight weights found in section A of the Morse cue plus the weight of the number of the weights found in section B of the Morse cue that are located in the proximal portion of the cue.

As discussed in detail above, the Examiner has not demonstrated that any of the three weights found in section B of the Morse cue are located in the distal half of the cue as would be required for these weights to be used to make the distal portion of the cue substantially heavier than the proximal portion, as alleged by the Examiner.

Moreover, the Examiner has presented no evidence that even if one or more of the three weights of section B of the Morse cue are located in the distal half of the cue, sufficient weight can be added to make the distal portion of the Morse cue substantially heavier than the proximal portion, as required by claim 15 of the present application. Specifically, the Examiner has not demonstrated that 1-3 of the heavy weights (h) of the Morse cue would be sufficient to overcome the weight imbalance caused by the larger diameter of the proximal portion of the Morse cue

relative to the diameter of the distal portion, taken in combination with the addition of eight of the light weights (i) that are located in section A of the proximal half of the Morse cue.

Finally, the Examiner has not shown that Morse provides a skilled person with any teaching, suggestion or motivation to adjust the weight of the cue to provide substantially more than half of the weight of the cue in the distal half of the cue, as required by claim 15 of the present application. Accordingly, even if it were possible to achieve this result using the cue taught by Morse the Examiner has not demonstrated that it would be obvious for a skilled person to place substantially more than half of the weight of the cue of Morse in the distal half of the cue. This is because the Examiner has not demonstrated that either Morse or Bey provides any motivation for a skilled person to place substantially more than half of the weight of the cue of Morse in the distal half of the cue, as required by present claim 15.

Finally, when analyzing this rejection, it is important to bear in mind that the structure of Morse is not a billiard cue as required by the claims until sections A-E and the tip are joined together with the weights inside. Thus, an argument based on the weight pockets being empty does not apply since Morse does not contemplate an embodiment the weight pockets empty when sections A-E of the Morse cue are joined together.

Accordingly, the Examiner has not demonstrated that the limitation of claim 15 which requires that the distal portion of the cue comprises substantially more than half of the weight of the cue, is met by the cue of Morse, or by a combination of Morse and Bey and thus the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reversed. Favorable consideration and reversal of the rejection is requested.

B. Claims 16 and 19

Claims 16 and 19 require that a diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 10% over the length of the cue. The rejection of claims 16 and 19 should be reversed for at least the same reason as for claim 15, since claims 16 and 19 depend from claim 15. In addition, claims 16 and

19 are patentable because Morse does not teach or suggest that the diameter of the billiard cue varies up to a maximum of 10% over the length of the cue.

It is apparent from the present specification that the applicant's intention is to minimize the variation in the diameter of the cue. See e.g. page 6, lines 10-17 of the specification. It is clear from the drawings of Morse that the diameter of the Morse cue varies substantially from the butt end of section A of the cue to the tip of the cue. The Examiner admits that, "Morse does not disclose expressly the amount of variation in the diameter between the sections." Thus, for this reason alone, the rejection should be withdrawn because the Examiner has not made out a case of *prima facie* obviousness against claims 16 and 19 since an element of claims 16 and 19 is missing from the cited references.

The Examiner takes the further position that,

> "At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to varying [sic – vary] the diameter to meet the specified amounts, because Applicant has not disclosed that varying the diameter to meet the specified amounts, provides any advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem." See the Final Rejection, page 3, lines 5-9.

This statement by the Examiner is clearly incorrect as the applicant has, in fact, disclosed that,

> "The substantially uniform diameter facilitates the maintenance of a substantially constant geometric angle throughout the stroke of the ball." See page 6, lines 15-17 of the specification.

Thus, the substantially uniform diameter, as claimed in claims 16 and 19, does provide an advantage, as disclosed in the specification, namely that the geometric angle of the cue can be maintained substantially constant throughout the stroke of the ball.

In particular, at the start of the stroke, a player grips the cue with the lead hand at a certain location. During the stroke, the location at which the cue is gripped by the fingers of the lead hand changes as a result of the cue moving forward to strike the ball. If the diameter of the cue varies substantially, the players grip must adapt to the changing diameter of the cue in order

to prevent changing the geometric angle of the cue as the cue moves forward and presents a changing diameter at the location at which the cue is gripped. If the players grip does not accommodate the changing diameter of the cue, the geometric angle of the cue will change as the cue moves forward through the player's grip. This will result in variations in the strike of the ball which may cause the ball to go in an undesirable direction or to have an undesirable spin.

Using a cue with a substantially constant diameter minimizes the possibility of changes in the geometric angle of the cue during the stroke by minimizing the amount of diameter change that the player's grip must accommodate during the stroke. Specifically, since the diameter of the cue will not change significantly from the initial grip location of fingers of the lead hand, the amount of adaptation of the player's grip that is required is also minimized, thereby reducing the chance of a poor stroke.

Accordingly, for the reason given above with respect to claim 15, and for this additional reason, the rejection of claims 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reversed. Favorable consideration and reversal of the rejection is requested.

C. Claim 17

Claim 17 requires that a diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 5% over the length of the cue. The rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reversed for the reason given above with respect to claim 15 since claim 17 depends from claim 15, and for the additional reason given above with respect to claim 16 and for the additional reason that the Examiner has not demonstrated that either Morse or Bey discloses a variation in the diameter of the cue of up to 5% over the length of the cue. Favorable consideration and reversal of the rejection is requested.

D. Claim 18

Claim 18 requires that a diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 2% over the length of the cue. The rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reversed for the reason given above with respect to claim 15 since claim 18 depends from claim 15, and for the additional

reason given above with respect to claim 16 and for the additional reason that the Examiner has not demonstrated that either Morse or Bey discloses a variation in the diameter of the cue of up to 2% over the length of the cue. Favorable consideration and reversal of the rejection is requested.

E. Claim 20

Claim 20 requires that the distal portion of said billiard cue has a weight which is about 60-80% of the total weight of said billiard cue. The rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reversed for the reason given above with respect to claims 15 and 16 since claim 20 depends from claims 15 and 16, and for the additional reason that the Examiner has not demonstrated that either Morse or Bey discloses a cue having a distal portion which has a weight which is about 60-80% of the total weight of the billiard cue. For the reasons as given above with respect to claim 15, a skilled person would not arrive at a cue within the scope of claim 20, having at least 60% of the total weight of the cue in the distal portion, based on the teachings of Morse taken in combination with Bey. Favorable consideration and reversal of the rejection is requested.

F. Claim 21

Claim 21 requires that the billiard cue comprise three sections which are releasably attachable to one another, and that at least one of said three sections located in said distal portion of said cue have a substantially greater density than another of said three sections. The Examiner's rejection of claim 21 should be reversed for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claims 15 and 16 since claim 21 depends from claims 15 and 16, and for the additional reason that the Examiner has not demonstrated that Morse discloses that at least one section of the cue located in the distal half or portion of the cue, has a substantially greater density than another of said three sections.

The Examiner alleges that Morse teaches that the weights can be adjusted to suit the individual need, citing page 1, column 2, lines 71-96 of Morse. However, the applicant cannot find such a statement at page 1, column 2, lines 71-96 of Morse.

Moreover, the Examiner apparently concludes that the weights can be used to ensure that a section of the cue in the distal portion has a greater density than another section of the cue. However, this argument only succeeds if the Examiner can show that:

1. One or more of the weights of Morse can be located in the distal half or portion of the cue, and
2. That the entire section of the Morse cue containing the weight is located in the distal section of the cue since claim 21 requires that an entire releasably attachable section that is located in the distal portion of the cue have a greater density.

As discussed above with respect to claim 15, the Examiner has not demonstrated that the weights of Morse are located in the distal half or portion of the cue. Moroever, the Examiner has not demonstrated that an entire section of the Morse cue which contains weights is located in the distal section of the cue.

Alternatively, the Examiner can demonstrate that the weights of Morse can be used to reduce the density of a section of the Morse cue located in the proximal portion of the cue in order to meet the requirement of claim 21. However, the Examiner has not demonstrated that any of the weights contemplated by Morse have a lesser density than wood, the material from which the cue is made, and thus the Examiner has also not demonstrated that the density of the wooden proximal portion of the cue can be reduced by use of a weight having a density less than the density of the wood from which the cue is made.

Accordingly, for these additional reasons, the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reversed. Favorable consideration and reversal of the rejection is requested.

G. Claims 22-23

Claim 22 requires that one section form the entire distal portion of the cue. Claim 23 depends from claim 22. The Examiner's rejection of claims 22-23 should be reversed

for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claims 15, 16 and 21 since claims 22-23 depend from claims 15, 16 and 21, and for the additional reason that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Morse does not disclose forming the entire distal portion of the cue from a single section.

The Examiner takes the position that,

> "Regarding claim 22, Morse shows one of said sections form [sic – forms] the entire distal portion of said cue (see page 1, column 1, lines 12-18 [of Morse]). Morse teaches that the pool cue/cane can be made in two or more sections." See Final Rejection, page 4, section on claim 22.

This statement is incorrect. First, Morse does not show that one section can form the entire distal portion of the cue. The section of Morse relied on by the Examiner states that the walking cane can be separated into two or more parts but does not refer to the number of parts that make up the cue. The relevant portion of Morse found at page 1, column 1, lines 43-49 of Morse teaches as follows:

> "When the sections C D E are added, the rod is lengthened sufficiently to form a billiard-cue. There may be only two sections instead of the sections C D E; but by having three sections each one may be sufficiently short to go easily into the pocket of a player's coat."

Thus, it is clear that Morse only contemplates billiard cues wherein the distal portion comprises two or three sections, but not a billiard cue wherein the distal portion is made from a single section as claimed in claims 22-23 of the present application.

Accordingly, for these additional reasons, the rejection of claims 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reversed. Favorable consideration and reversal of the rejection is requested.

H. Claims 24-27

Claim 24 of the application requires that the tip comprises a surface for striking a billiard ball, and an elastomeric material attached to said surface, said elastomeric material being sized to fit snugly over the distal end of said billiard cue to releasably secure said tip to the distal end of said billiard cue. Claims 25-27 all depend from claim 24.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 24-27 should be reversed for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claims 15, 16, 21 and 22, since claims 24-27 depend from claims 15, 16, 21 and 22, and for the additional reason that Morse does not teach or suggest releasably securing an elastomeric tip to the distal end of a cue by fitting the elastomeric material of the tip snugly over the distal end of the cue.

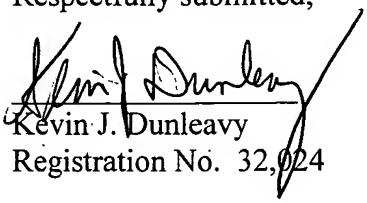
The Examiner alleges that Morse discloses the use of an elastomeric material sized to fit snugly over the distal end of the billiard cue to releasably secure the tip to the distal end of the billiard cue. See page 4, last paragraph of the Final Rejection. However, this is incorrect since the elastomeric material of the tip of the Morse cue does not releasably secure the tip to the distal end of the cue.

In this regard, the Examiner relies on Figures 8 and 11-13 of Morse. From these figures and the accompanying description it is clear that the tip of Morse is secured to the distal end of the cue by screw q. Thus, Morse does not teach or suggest releasably securing an elastomeric tip to the distal end of a cue by fitting the elastomeric material of the tip snugly over the distal end of the cue.

Accordingly, for this additional reason, the rejection of claims 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reversed. Favorable consideration and reversal of the rejection is requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Appellant respectfully submits that each of the rejections should be reversed, and that the pending claims should be allowed. Such a decision is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 16, 2005

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VIII. Claims Appendix

15. A billiard cue having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said cue comprising:

a grip located on the proximal portion of said cue,

a tip suitable for striking a billiard ball located on a distal end of said distal portion of said cue, and

wherein said distal portion comprises up to half of the length of said billiard cue and comprises substantially more than half of the weight of said billiard cue.

16. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 15, wherein a diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 10% over the length of the cue.

17. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 15, wherein a diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 5% over the length of the cue.

18. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 15, wherein the diameter of the billiard cue varies up to 2% over the length of the cue.

19. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 16, wherein the distal portion of said billiard cue comprises from 25-50% of the total length of said billiard cue, and the proximal portion comprises the remaining length of said billiard cue.

20. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 19, wherein the distal portion of said billiard cue has a weight which is about 60-80% of the total weight of said billiard cue.

21. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 19, wherein the billiard cue comprises three sections which are releasably attachable to one another, and at least one of said three sections is located in said

distal portion of said cue and has a substantially greater density than another of said three sections.

22. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 21, wherein one of said three sections forms the entire distal portion of said cue.

23. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 22, wherein the tip is releasably attachable to the distal end of said cue.

24. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 23, wherein the tip comprises a surface for striking a billiard ball, and an elastomeric material attached to said surface, said elastomeric material being sized to fit snugly over the distal end of said billiard cue to releasably secure said tip to the distal end of said billiard cue.

25. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 24, wherein the surface of said tip is made from liquid steel.

26. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 24, wherein the surface of said tip is made from neoprene.

27. A billiard cue as claimed in claim 24, wherein said grip comprises a tubular elastomeric material which can be stretched and slipped over the proximal end of the proximal portion of said cue.